Appln. No.: 09/364,370

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of producing an output object, the method

comprising the steps of:

receiving an input object, wherein the received input object contains input data and one

input function executable on a computer;

determining a type of the received input object;

based on the determined type, ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one

or more predefined requirements; and

when it is ascertained that the received input object satisfies each predefined requirement,

executing the input function on a the computer.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ascertaining further comprises

ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements by

executing one or more verification functions.

3. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein a source code for each verification

function is located in a predefined section of a controller object source code.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of producing an output

object by using a result produced by the executed input function.

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5. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the received input object is received from an application, and wherein the method further comprises the step of returning the output object to the application.

- 6. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the received input object is received from a user and wherein the method further comprises the step of returning the output object to the user.
- 7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving a plurality of input objects, wherein each received input object contains an input function, and wherein each input function has a predefined signature.
- 8. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the step of regulating a flow of received input objects.
- 9. (original): The method of claim 8, regulating the flow comprises storing some of the received input objects in a queue.
- 10. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein regulating the flow comprises the steps of:

returning some of the received input objects to a sender; and requesting that the sender re-send the received input objects at a later time.

11. (currently amended): An apparatus for producing an output object, comprising: a computer;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving an input object, wherein the received input object contains input data and one input function executable

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on a computer, determining a type of the received input object, based on the determined type, ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements, and when it is ascertained that the received input object satisfies each predefined requirement, executing the input function on a-the computer.

- 12. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means of ascertaining further comprises ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements by executing one or more verification functions.
- 13. (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein a source code for each verification function is located in a predefined section of a controller object source code.
- 14. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more computer programs executing on the computer for producing an output object by using a result produced by the executed input function.
- 15. (original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the received input object is received from an application, and wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for returning the output object to the application.
- 16. (original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the received input object is received from a user, and wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for returning the output object to the user.
- 17. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means of receiving comprises receiving a plurality of input objects, wherein each received input object contains an input function, and wherein each input function has a predefined signature.

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18. (original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for regulating a flow of received input objects.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein regulating the flow comprises storing some of the received input objects in a queue.

20. (original): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the flow comprises:

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for returning some of the received input objects to a sender, and requesting that the sender re-send the received input objects at a later time.

21. (currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for producing an output object, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an input object, wherein the received input object contains input data and one input function executable on a computer;

determining a type of the received input object;

based on the determined type, ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements; and

when it is ascertained that the received input object satisfies each predefined requirement, executing the input function on a-the computer.

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22. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the step of ascertaining further comprises ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements by executing one or more verification functions.

- 23. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein a source code for each verification function is located in a predefined section of a controller object source code.
- 24. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the step of producing an output object by using a result produced by the executed input function.
- 25. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the received input object is received from an application, and wherein the method further comprises the step of returning the output object to the application.
- 26. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the received input object is received from a user, and wherein the method further comprises the step of returning the output object to the user.
- 27. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving a plurality of input objects, wherein each received input object contains an input function, and wherein each input function has a predefined signature.
- 28. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises the step of regulating a flow of received input objects.
- 29. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein regulating the flow comprises storing some of the received input objects in a queue.

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30. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein regulating the flow comprises the steps of:

returning some of the received input objects to a sender; and requesting that the send re-send the received input objects at a later time.